(d) whether it is also a fact that in spite of Government's numerous efforts to uplift the Adivasis, they are not i'et at par with other communities in the country; and

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what remedial measure Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO); (a) to (e) The detailed information has been called for from the concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exploitation of Female Labourers In Orissa and Bihar

3875. KUMARI SHSHILA TIRIA:
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI;

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Oriya Daily "Prajan. tantra" dated 18th September, 1987 to the effect that young female labourers especially advasis were being raped and exploited by the Iron Manganese ganese ore transport contractors in mines area of Orissa and Bihar;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made in this regard if so, what is the result thereof: and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to protect these female labourers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO); (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On a representation, received earlier to the publication of the news item, from the United Minerals Workers Union, Chakradharpur, distt. Singhbhum, Bihar regarding exploitation of female tribal workers engaged in iron ore loading in certain parts of Bihar, Oirssa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, an enquiry was made by an officer of the Ministry of Labour. One of the allegations made in the representation was regarding sexual exploitation of tribal female workers by contractors. During enquiry the workers generally felt that there was some sexual harassment of the women by contractors. However, no specific case was brought to th$_e$ notice of enquiry officer. The State Govts, of Bihar and Orissa have been suitably addressed in the matter.

Price of Copper

3876. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the price of copper is being proposed to be reduced, if so, what would be its impact on the eco nomies and working of the Hindustan Copper Limited: and

(b) whether the impo'rt duty *ol* copper is being reduced; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARi SINHA): (a) and (b) The price of copper is decided every month by a Cornmittee based on international prices Of metal, freight, insurance, import duty, etc. The matter relating to a suitable pricing policy for copper is under consideraion of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP). The impact on economic viability of the Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) would be known when any change is made in the level of duties or prices.